

INTERNATIONAL

British spy chief dies

NZPA-Reuters

BRITAIN'S spymaster, Sir Maurice Oldfield, the inspiration for George Smiley in John Le Carre's spy novels and M in Ian Fleming's James Bond books is dead, the British Government said.

The Northern Ireland Office said he died in hospital, aged 65, after an illness. It gave no further information.

Sir Maurice, a pudgy, bespectacled bachelor with a reserved manner and dry wit, spent four decades in British intelligence.

For the last 12 years before he retired in 1979, he was C (Control) chief of the

British secret service network M16.

Even the fact that he was Control was secret until leaked by an American magazine in 1973.

He was recalled from retirement for his last job, security policy co-ordinator in strife-torn Northern Ireland, after the 1979 assassination of Lord Mountbatten, the Queen's uncle, by Irish guerillas seeking to end British rule.

Northern Ireland Secretary Humphrey Atkins said Britain had lost a great, loyal and valued servant.

CIA boss opposes changes

NZ PRESS ASSOCIATION

ADMIRAL Bobby Inman, newly confirmed deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency says he is doing his utmost to prevent a "series of repugnant changes" to legal and administrative restraints on the activities of United States intelligence agencies and says he might resign if such changes are adopted.

Admiral Inman made the remarks following an unusual press conference at which he denied in somewhat less forceful terms that proposals to relax restrictions on domestic spying by the CIA had his approval.

He said he believed some changes were desirable and will be made because of an apparent increase in the danger of international terrorism.

But he made clear that he opposed sweeping relaxations of restrictions sought by some strongly conservative forces in Congress and the Reagan administration.

He said that ultimately the question was to balance legal protections against the cost of giving up "a little intelligence" and said there should be "a very clear understanding of what the gain is you will get for the change you are going to make".